Though it may be easy to assign legislation, the actions of one individual, or even single events as the beginning of a movement, a variety of factors work together to build the foundation for political and/or social movements. This primary source set provides an opportunity for your students to explore the connections and relationships between different aspects of the early Civil Rights Movement, including literatures, legislation, and sports. Break your students into groups and assign each group two or three different primary sources from the following pages. Have your students explore how each primary source contributed to building momentum for the Civil Rights Movement. Then have groups present their findings and as a class discuss further connections between each groups primary sources.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- TPS Newsletter — June 2018: Beginnings of a Movement
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom
- Race Relations in the 1930s and 1940s
- Biography of Walter White
- Lesson Plan: Trains and Travel: Then and Now
- Lesson Plan: Claiming Space: Jim Crow and the American Road Trip
- TPS Newsletter — January 2012: Civil Rights
- The Bayard Rustin Papers Lecture
- U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study, Macon County, Alabama, 1932-1973
- Lesson Plan: TVA Opportunities for African Americans
- American dilemma: the Negro problem and modern democracy
- African American History Links Guide
A. Philip Randolph to NAACP Secretary Walter White, March 18, 1941, [1941]

Washington, D.C. Portrait of A. Philip Randolph, labor leader [1942]

“Why Should We March?” [1941]

Check out a lesson idea using this source in our May 2014 Newsletter.

A. Philip Randolph at the National Press Club, August 26, 1963 [1963]
- Transcript: PDF

Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Agreement with the Pullman Company, 1937, [1937]
Ralph Waldo Ellison (1914–1994). Draft page of Invisible Man [1952]

Zora Neale Hurston smoking, Cross City turpentine camp, ca. 1939 [1939]


“Meet the Press” Transcript of television and radio broadcast [Jackie Robinson] [1957]

Nobody knows de trouble I’ve seen / Marian Anderson [religious, ethnic music] [1924]

Do You Collar The Jive? Start Cooking With Gas

Harlem slang is a language unto itself, so much so that in her new story of Harlem, Zora Neal Hurston, Negro author, finds it necessary to supply her readers with a glossary, so they can interpret the lines they read. Here is an excerpt from Miss Hurston’s “Story in Harlem Slang” which appears in the July America Mercury, together with the glossary which follows:

“Wait till I light up my coal pot and I’ll tell you about this Righshoo called Jelly. He was a seelkin brown and papa-tree-top tail. Skinny in the hips and solid built up sleety. He was born with this rough-dried hair, but when he drank a gin and pressed it down overnight with his stocking cap. It looked just like that righteous mous and had so many waves you got sea sick from looking Solid, man, solid.

His mama named him Marvel, but under a month on Lenox avenue, he changed that to Jelly. “One day, Jelly got into his moom suit with the seat pleat and got out to skivver around and de himself some good. At 123rd street, he spied one of his coll leagues on the opposite sidewalk, standing in front of a cafe, Jelly figured that if he butt-skated just right, he might convince Sweet back out of a thousand on a plate. Maybe a shot of scrap-iron or a reef. So he started into the street and made the crossing. “If there, Sweet back-Gimme some skin!”

“Lay de skin on me, pal. Ain’t you seen you since the last time, Jelly, What’s cooking?”

“Uh, just like de beer—I ain’t nowhere. Like de beer’s brother, I ain’t no farther. Like de beer’s daughter—ain’t got a quarter.”

Brief Glossary Of Harlem Slang

Balling, having fun; beating up your jams, getting no purpose; ball skating, bragging; cock hunting, cheap liquor; crusing, parading down the avenue.

Diddy-wah-diddy, a suberb of Hell, built way before Hell wasn’t any bigger than Baltimore.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Detroit tribune., July 11, 1942, Page PAGE FOUR, Image 4 [1942]
Portrait of Mary McLeod Bethune [1949]

Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial, Washington, D.C. [1980]

Washington, D.C. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President of the National Council of Negro ... [1943 July]

Daytona Beach, Florida, Bethune-Cookman College [1943]

Interesting Story of the Achievements of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune as Founder and Principal of an Ideal School For Females — Faculty of Capable Instructors.

Daytona, Fla.—Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, principal and founder of the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Girls, in this city, is one of the most notable characters of the race and a woman of unusual gifts for leadership. Her whole life has been one actuated by service to her race and fellow women. She tells a thrilling story of her efforts to build up her school and how she went to the black belt of Florida with $1.50 in her pocket and started a school which will come near making the name Bethune immortal. Her story is one of the brave heroine at work and one that would have meant defeat to a person having less courage and pluck.

Franklin’s paper the statesman., July 27, 1912, Page 2, Image 2 [1912]
The Civil Rights Map of America. [1949]

Flag flown at NAACP headquarters, ca. 1920 [1920]

Eleanor Roosevelt to NAACP Secretary Walter White, March 19, 1936. [1936]

Lynchings by states and counties in the United States, 1900-1931; (data from Research Department, Tuskegee Institute); cleartype county outline map of the United States. [1931]

Working people of Washington negro and white. [1934]

Walter White. [1947]

Also see: Walter White's Personal Tragic Story of the Segregated South (Audio)
NAACP Secretary Walter White requesting funds to support the litigation of Morgan v. Virginia, May 20, 1946. [1946]

George M. Houser and Bayard Rustin, Journey of Reconciliation. [1948]

"By Executive Order--President Truman Wipes Out Segregation in Armed Forces." Chicago Defender, July 31, 1948 [1948]

Executive Order 9980, July 26, 1948. [1948]


"Why Should We March?". Print. 1941. From Library of Congress: Manuscript Division. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aaodyssey:@field(NUMBER+@band(mssmisc+ody0808))


Smith, Roger. Photographer. Washington, D.C. Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President of the National Council of Negro women, presenting certificates to hostesses for USO duty, at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA on Rhode Island Avenue. Facing the camera is Miss Dorothy Height, Director of the YWCA. July 1943. From Library of Congress: Prints and Photograph Division. https://www.loc.gov/resource/fsa.8d40084/


